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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,787	08/29/2001	Henry Scanzano	9209-12	9756

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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/942,787

Applicant(s)

SCANZANO ET AL.

Examiner

Susan Y. Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 3/17/2005.

Claims 1-48 are pending for examination, claims 1, 12, 24 and 36-48 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 36-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claim 36, 40 and 45, it is not understood what does the claimed "a type attribute", "first table", and "second table" referred to [i.e., the instant specification discloses various tables including a plurality of relational tables, parent, child tables and entity tables, etc., the type attribute associated with these tables various from table to table, application to application and system to system, therefore, without specifying which one is the claimed first table or second table and the specific feature of the claimed attribute type that renders the claimed subject matters to be indefinite.]

As to claims 37-39, 41-44 and 46-48, these claims have the same defect as their base claims, hence are rejected for the same reason.

Because of the ambiguity nature of the invention, the following rejections are based on the examiner best understanding.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jorgensen (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,831).

As to claims 12, 14 and 40, Jorgensen discloses a computer system with relational database management processing to provide multiple but exclusive relationships between tables [e.g. see Abstract, Fig(s). 2-4], wherein, the system comprising the followings as claimed by applicant:

a) a relating (or type) table [e.g., table 200, Fig. 2] which have at least one attribute [e.g. the pop-up menu (226), Fig. 2] to provide a one-to-many relationship between the related table and a corresponding foreign key [e.g., the foreign key Icon(206), Fig. 2; col. 3, lines 56-65 & col. 4, lines 4-6; Fig. 4];

b) a plurality of related tables [e.g., the set of hyperlinked tables being displayed by the step 306, Fig. 3; col. 3, lines 27-32, lines 56-65; col. 4, lines 14-19];

c) means for selectively associating a type attribute (or a foreign key value) of a record in the relating table with a specific one of the plurality of related tables based on at least one attribute of the record containing the foreign key in the relating table so as to provide multiple but exclusive relationships between tables in the relational database [e.g., the entity relationship diagram produced by the foreign key icon & trigger processing of Fig(s). 3A-3C; Fig. 4 and associated texts; Note: the primary key icon represents an exclusive relationship between tables in the relation database because the primary key is unique in nature. The foreign key icon links the displayed table to a display of another table in the entity relationship diagram containing the foreign key (e.g., col. 2, lines 20-22), thus, the icons that including keys and constraints represents multiple relationships between tables in the database.].

As to claims 13,17-18, 20-23, 41-42 and 44, the claimed limitations are default properties of standard OO SQL processing. [e.g. an ordinary skill person in the art can use the "Create Table" SQL to define foreign key association between a set of tables, he/she also can use the "Create Type" SQL to define a plurality of types of foreign key

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association. In addition, a user can enforce the multiple and exclusive relationship between a set of tables via QQ SQL UDR (User Defined Routines or triggers). Furthermore, a build-in "Select (value/values) From (table/tables) Where (condition/conditions)" SQL can be used to select and identify (or obtain) records from a set of desired tables of a database].

As to claims 15, 19 and 43, Jorgensen further discloses using trigger to enforce association relationships between the set of foreign keys and related tables in a database [e.g., see Fig. 3C].

As to claim 16, Jorgensen further discloses that the system use a defined type (or hyperlink) to access the typed tables [e.g. see col. 3, lines 27-32].

As to claims 1-11, 24-39 and 45-48, these claims recite the same subject matters as claims 12-23 and 40-44 in form of computer method and computer products. As such, they are rejected for the same reason.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/17/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner first points out there is a typo in the second paragraph of the section "The Indefiniteness Rejections" in the instant amendment. The number "58" should be changed to "48".

In addition, the examiner disagrees with applicant's arguments that the amended claims 36-48 clarify the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection. In contrary to applicant's arguments, as recited above the amended claims still having indefinite subject matters that renders the claims to be unclear.

Furthermore, the examiner disagrees with applicant's arguments that "nothing in the cited portions of Jorgensen discloses or suggests the selective association of a foreign key in a relating table with a specific one of a plurality of related tables based on an attribute of the record containing the foreign key in the relating table as recited in the independent claims 12, 1 and 24..."

In reply to these arguments, the examiner points out that the claimed features are clearly disclosed by Jorgensen at the Fig.(s) 3A-Fig. 4 and the associated texts. For example, the foreign key association with the claimed plurality of tables is clearly disclosed by Jorgensen at Fig. 4 with the associated texts starting from col. 1, lines 22 to line 53. In addition, the physical implementation of the claimed features is further disclosed by Jorgensen at Fig.(s) 3A-3C and associated texts, for example, the logical

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flow of steps of Fig. 3B. Therefore, in contrary to applicant's arguments, Jorgensen's disclosure clearly read the limitations of instant invention.

As to the rest of arguments, applicant merely rehash issues already addressed on record, thus, the examiner maintains the same type of rejections.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y. Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Y Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2161

May 26, 2005



UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER